

The NIH Record

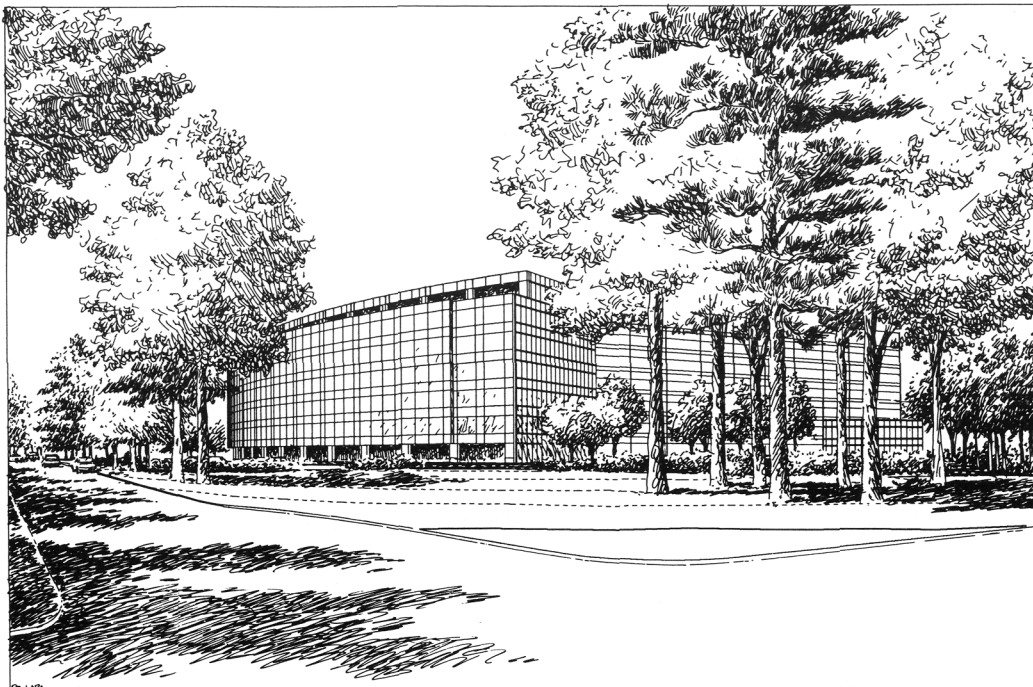
A 5-Year Project

Natcher Bldg. Plans Move Forward, Complex To Be Completed in Two Phases

Planning for the William H. Natcher Bldg., in progress for more than 4 years, is coming to fruition as NIH has targeted groundbreaking for phase I of the new office complex in September. Completion of the phase II complex would result by 1997 in new quarters for a total of about 3,000 NIH'ers currently occupying rental buildings in the area.

Originally known as the Consolidated Office Bldg., the project was designed to bring NIH extramural staff together on campus and to vacate off-campus real estate that is leased to NIH. On Feb. 7, NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy and the ICD directors settled on a design that encompasses some 720,000 gross square feet of space on a site bounded roughly by Center Dr., Rockville Pike, and the Lawton Chiles Center (Stone House). Three weeks later, Healy presented architect's drawings of the facility to its namesake, Rep. William H. Natcher (D-Ky.), a long-time friend of NIH and chairman of the House appropriations subcommittee charged with NIH oversight.

Back in 1988, the Division of Engineering Services (DES) at NIH completed a "program
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View from the corner of Rockville Pike and Center Dr. looking northwest at the proposed new William H. Natcher Bldg. Groundbreaking is expected by fall on the first phase of the office complex project.

NIH Alumnus Kandel Tells What Memories Are Made Of

By Christopher Vaughan

From dog and pony shows to flea circuses to stupid pet tricks, animal acts have always carried with them an aura of, well ... the tawdry. But for the keynote speech at the recent NINDS Research Poster Day, Dr. Eric Kandel made his work with the lowly snail an exposition of scientific virtuosity.

Kandel, currently university professor at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and senior investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, has studied the snail *Aplysia* over decades to uncover the most basic neural mechanisms of learning and memory. As a result, remarked NINDS director Dr. Murray Goldstein in his introduction, Kandel and the *Aplysia* "have become world figures" in scientific circles. Kandel's talk, titled "Genes, Nerve Cells and the Remembrance of Things Past," was part of the ongoing observance of the Decade of the Brain.

For Kandel the trip to NIH was something of a homecoming. Born in Vienna, Austria, Kandel spent 3 "marvelous" years at the NIH after graduating from Harvard and the New York University School of Medicine. "Like so many scientists, I owe my academic existence

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NHLBI Hosts Major Women's Health Conferences

By Louise Williams

The discussions were provocative and the enthusiasm unflagging as nearly 100 speakers from across the country discussed the cardiovascular and respiratory health of American women at two recent conferences sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The respiratory conference was also sponsored by the American College of Chest Physicians and the American Thoracic Society—the first time the three groups have combined forces. The effort proved so successful that at least two more joint activities are already in the works.

The conferences, held in Bethesda, brought together the leading university, private and federal researchers, clinicians, and educators for hard-working sessions to come up with treatment and research recommendations to improve women's cardiovascular and respiratory health both now and in the future. Organizers have pledged a speedy dissemination of the recommendations, which may be available as early as this summer.

The recommendations' impact will be heightened by the conferences' broad scopes. Recommendations from the "Cardiovascular Health and Disease in Women" will cover prevention, pregnancy, disease diagnosis and

management, hormonal replacement therapy, and psychosocial aspects contributing to disease.

Those for "Research Needs and Opportunities Related to Respiratory Health in Women" will address smoking, congestive obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, sarcoidosis and interstitial pulmonary

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Immunologist Marrack To Give Dyer Lecture

By Lauren Ward

Few researchers know T cells like Dr. Philippa Marrack, investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine at Denver. For more than 20 years, she has painstakingly examined these immune cells from their birth to death. She has contributed enormously to understanding why some T cells normally suffer an early demise (clonal deletion), how T cells work with neighboring cells to defend the body against disease (the immune response), and why T cells sometimes ravage the body by mistake

(See **MARRACK**, Page 2)

MARRACK

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(autoimmunity). She will present her work at this year's R.E. Dyer lecture, "The Alpha Beta T Cell Repertoire in Health and Disease," Apr. 14, at 3 p.m. in Masur Auditorium. The Dyer lecture was established in 1950 in tribute to Dr. Rolla E. Dyer, NIH director from 1942 to 1950.

In the early 1970's Marrack and others were learning the basics of how T cells help another type of immune cell—the B cell—to produce antibodies against invading microbes. For an immune response to occur, an intimate encounter between the B and T cell must take place. To start, a B cell meets an invader, digests it, and shuttles a fragment of the organism to the B cell's surface. The fragment, or antigen, wedges into the cleft of another assembly on the surface of the B cell. This assembly is called the major histocompatibility complex (MHC). When the combination of antigen and MHC bumps into a T cell that specifically recognizes it, a full-fledged immune response ensues, and the invader is destroyed.

The specificity of the B cell-T cell recognition is determined by a receptor on the outside of the T cell. T cells must recognize both MHC and antigen in order to respond. This finding led to a controversy over whether T cells have two receptors, one for MHC and one for antigen, or one, for a combination of antigen and MHC. In the early 1980's Marrack and her husband Dr. John Kappler showed that T cells have a single receptor specific for antigen plus MHC. The receptor is composed of several subunits.

In the late eighties, Marrack and her colleagues learned how some of these T cells are clonally deleted in their birthplace, the thymus, a gland that rests near the thyroid. Clonal deletion helps rid the body of T cells that, if released, might recognize part of the body and spur self-destruction, or autoimmunity. Evidence suggests that in people who suffer autoimmune disorders, a few specialized T cells evade routine early destruction and, hence, turn on the body. The results are diseases such as multiple sclerosis, juvenile diabetes, systemic lupus erythematosus, and rheumatoid arthritis.

In more recent work, Marrack has revealed ways in which these rogue T cells are initially activated by antigen-bearing B cells. She and other investigators believe that the answer may be "superantigens," bacterial or viral products that link B cell and T cell through a heterodox manner. Unlike a normal antigen, a superantigen does not nestle in the MHC cleft of a B cell and encounter a T cell receptor. Rather, it clamps to the outside of the B cell and T cell receptors and, like a vice, draws them together, thus stimulating many T cells.



Dr. Philippa Marrack, investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, Denver, will deliver the 1992 R.E. Dyer Lecture on Apr. 14.

The result of this unusual union is a very large, misfired immune response. Marrack and others have found that superantigens may also account for diseases that are more widespread and epidemic in nature, such as food poisoning and the toxic shock syndrome. In these cases, T cells behave wildly, spewing out chemicals that cause inflammation, fever, and nausea, typical signs of these diseases.

Marrack received her B.A. in biochemistry and her Ph.D. in biological sciences from Cambridge University, England. Her work has garnered her considerable prestige in the scientific community. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was recently appointed by HHS secretary Dr. Louis Sullivan to the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. She was a Royal Society Wellcome Foundation Prize winner and lecturer and received the Feodor Lynen Medal for Special Achievement and Distinguished Service Award. She was a reviewing editor for *Science* and is currently an associate editor for *Cell*, an advisory editor for the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and an editor for the *FASEB* journal. □

Normal Volunteers Wanted

The Experimental Therapeutics Branch, NINDS, is seeking volunteers, ages 50 to 90, for psychological testing. They must be available for up to an hour and will be paid. Call Michael, 496-7994. □

Twins Sought for Study

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences seeks twins age 8 and older to participate in research. Volunteers will be paid. Call (301) 295-3672. □

The NIH Record

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NIH Record Office
Bldg. 31, Room 2B-03
Phone 496-2125
FAX 402-1485

Editor
Richard McManus

Assistant Editor
Anne Barber

Staff Writer
Carla Garnett

Editorial Assistant
Marilyn Berman

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Lupus Workshop Fosters Collaboration Between U.S., Caribbean

By Barbara Weldon

"Studies of lupus in the Caribbean, especially in individuals of African or East Indian descent, offer unique opportunities to examine ethnic differences in how the disease develops," said Dr. Michael D. Lockshin, a leading rheumatologist and director of the Extramural Program, NIAMS.

He made the comment during a recent NIAMS-sponsored Caribbean/U.S. Lupus Studies Workshop held at NIH. Researchers from the United States and several Caribbean islands gathered to discuss opportunities for studies of the disease. Reva Lawrence, NIAMS epidemiology and data systems program officer, said that preliminary epidemiologic studies of lupus in the Caribbean have suggested that there is a high frequency of lupus in certain ethnic groups. Further studies in the population may provide clues to the relative contributions of genetic and environmental factors in the cause and progression of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).

Lupus is a serious health problem that mainly affects young women of childbearing age. Although people of all races may get the disease, it is three times more common in Black women than in white women in the U.S. In addition, the disease tends to be more severe in Black women than in white women.

The exact cause of lupus is unknown, but evidence suggests that it may result from a disorder in the body's production of antibodies (proteins that fight invading organisms). In lupus, the body produces abnormal antibodies (autoantibodies) that react against the patient's own tissues. In its systemic form, lupus can affect the skin, joints, and internal organs including the brain, heart, lungs and kidneys.

Although the disease is thought to be uncommon in equatorial Africa, it is frequently encountered among individuals of African origin in the U.S. and perhaps in the Caribbean. However, there are few population-based studies in the Caribbean, and the reasons for this predilection for lupus in Blacks remain obscure. The perceptions of disease prevalence are based on clinical experience with patients admitted to the hospital with severe systemic lupus erythematosus.

Dr. George Nicholson, a nephrologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Bridgetown, Barbados, attributes this high incidence of SLE in Black Barbadians to a genetic admixture that has been ongoing for several centuries. "The presence of a predominantly Anglo-Saxon genetic marker in 10 percent of Barbadian SLE patients may reflect this admixture and explain the increased frequency of SLE in Barbadians as opposed to their West African ancestors," he said. He also said that Blacks are more prone to develop lupus



Shown are (front, from l) Dr. David Picou, Reva Lawrence, and Drs. Michael Lockshin, George Nicholson, Zinora Asgarali. In the middle row are (from l) Drs. Rajiswari Serrano, Adrian Sawyer, Rainford Wilkes, Matthew Liang, Michelle Petri, Patricia Fraser, Rosalind Ramsey-Goldman, E. Nigel Harris, Terrence Forrester, Joanne Jordan, B. Theodore-Gandi. In the rear are (from l) Drs. Alan Patrick, J. Kennedy Cruickshank, D. Bev Barnett, Franklin White, Wendell Wilson, Clarence Grim, John Winfield, and Winston Williams.

nephritis (kidney problems), and therefore, mortality from SLE is greater among Blacks than among whites.

A wide variation of specific tissue markers, known as HLA markers, exists within different ethnic groups and may play a major role in the development of lupus. Dr. Kennedy Cruickshank, senior lecturer in clinical epidemiology at the University of Manchester Medical School in Manchester, England, said that Blacks in the southeast U.S., Trinidad, Haiti, Guyana, and Jamaica may be distinguishable by these markers. Researchers have found an increased frequency of a certain genetic factor, HLA-DR3, among all patients with SLE.

Dr. Patricia Fraser, a genetic epidemiologist/rheumatologist at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, pointed out that studies of HLA markers in African Black populations show a strong tribal relationship and correlate well with the specific language of the area in which they lived. She said that the language of West African cultural groups and Bantu belongs to the Niger-Congo language family. More than 30 percent of the southeastern U.S. slave imports were from Central African Bantu. The remainder came from many West African cultural groups. Caribbean slaves were almost exclusively from West African cultural groups. "The origins of language and slave trade routes document the hypothesis that these populations had different origins," she added.

The NIAMS believes that a search should be made for unusual patterns of lupus in large concentrations of individuals of African and East Indian descent in the Caribbean. Although the two groups reside side by side and have similar lifestyles, lupus appears to be

more common in the African-descent population. The institute has identified the following goals for these studies:

- Develop a cadre of Caribbean investigators to conduct studies on SLE in areas of mutual interest now and in the future;
- Develop effective collaborations between U.S. and Caribbean investigators;
- Verify or refute the impression that lupus is more frequent and clinically different in Blacks compared to East Indians and others;
- If the impression is confirmed, identify the genetic or environmental causes for the differences.

According to Dr. David Picou, director of research at the Commonwealth Caribbean Medical Research Council in Trinidad, West Indies, "This diverse population is potentially advantageous to health researchers, as it offers an opportunity for comparative studies of genetics, diet, customs, living conditions, and lifestyles in relation to various health outcomes." He pointed out that Caribbean populations may allow researchers to exclude features that may be found in urban populations in the U.S.

The Commonwealth Caribbean Medical Research Council is the leading advocate and discussion forum for medical and health sciences research in the West Indies. The council represents a community of 17 Caribbean territories. It also includes organizations involved in medical research such as the University of the West Indies and the University of Guyana. The majority of research in most Caribbean countries is supported by international grants and contracts. However, competition for these international research funds is extremely formidable. □

WOMEN

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fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary thromboembolism, pulmonary infections, sleep disorders, pulmonary hypertension, growth and development, and aging.

As NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant noted in his welcoming remarks, the conferences were "not reviewing rare conditions that affect women, but rather the pathology of familiar conditions to see if and how they are being handled differently for women and men."

Respiratory conference cochair, Dr. Suzanne Hurd, director of the NHLBI Division of Lung Diseases, agreed, asking attendees to "look for common threads rather than at individual diseases."

And, while the diseases discussed at the two conferences differed, the problems faced by clinicians, researchers, and educators overlapped time and again. These ranged from basic data needs to misperceptions among women and their physicians that are thwarting access to care.

The foremost example of restricted access was addressed by Dr. Nancy S. Jecker, assistant professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, in her keynote address to the cardiovascular conference. She described the "implicit rationing" of American health care that has made older women the poorest age group in America.

"Rationing decisions are often made unwittingly and without explicit policies," she explained, and their true effects may not be understood. Attempts to curb strained health care resources by rationing their delivery to the old actually discriminate against women, who outlive men and must grapple with disabling, chronic conditions. For example, the U.S. health care system reimburses costs for hospital care, which more men use, but not those for chronic care facilities such as nursing homes, which more women require.

She said the country needs to find a fair approach to dispensing health care resources. "We must actively anticipate gender issues related to all health policies and give them an alert and meticulous hearing."

Dr. Millicent Higgins, associate director of NHLBI's Epidemiology and Biometry Program, gave the statistical reasons for America's strained health resources. About 9.6 million American women have heart disease—four times the number of those with cancer. Heart disease kills more women than any other disease, with nearly half a million women fated to succumb from cardiovascular disease this year.

Lung diseases are another major killer andcrippler of American women. Excluding cancer, lung diseases account for about 198,000 deaths annually, she said.



NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant (r) greets cardiovascular disease conference cochairs Drs. Leon Speroff and Nancy Wenger.

She explained that these illnesses strain U.S. health resources. Women's needs are further complicated because they live longer than men, visit physicians more often, and have more complex health conditions. More must be done, she said, to help U.S. women than is now being accomplished.

Participants at both conferences heard how women's health also is jeopardized by outdated information, which causes physician biases in diagnosis and treatment, as well as unhealthy behaviors among women, ignorant of their true disease risks.

Cardiovascular conference cochair Dr. Nanette K. Wenger, professor of medicine and director of cardiac clinics at the Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., cited coronary heart disease (CHD) as an example. CHD is often mistaken for a man's disease, partly because clinicians rely on data about middle-age men or epidemiological studies that are only now covering the ages at which women first show symptoms. Typically, symptoms appear in women 10 years later than in men, while first heart attacks occur 20 years later.

She noted that women and their physicians often don't obtain timely diagnostic and treatment procedures. Such delays, she said, are frequently fatal. Women are much more likely than men to die from corrective bypass surgery, for example, because they do not undergo the procedure until they are older and have less stable conditions than men.

Unfortunately, she continued, women's CHD risks have not filtered to the public. The popular press still writes about victims of heart attacks as being men and this must change before women will see the need to take preventive steps to lower their risks.

Dr. Sonia A. Buist, professor of medicine at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Medicine in Portland, also discussed the misdiagnosis problem. She told the respiratory

session that physicians tend to diagnose men as having emphysema and women asthma, but no one knows why. The cause may be due to gender-based differences, or varied worksite pollutants, or merely a perception bias among doctors.

The most-heard refrain at both conferences was for more research. Respiratory experts, for instance, said there was a lack of data on such basic issues as whether differences in lung and airway sizes between women and men are being misrepresented as gender-based differences.

And cardiovascular conference participants asked for research on such key topics as hormones, pharmacokinetics, and the tendency for some noninvasive diagnostic tests to produce false positive results more frequently for women than men.

Many speakers stressed the need for research on estrogen and other hormones. For instance, Dr. John LaRosa, dean for research at George Washington University, said some women may not be able to control their cardiovascular disease risks adequately through diet and exercise—major strategies that have proved effective for men—because of hormonal effects.

He explained that premenopausal women who lose weight have decreases in both high and low density lipoproteins, while men reap desired increases in high density lipoproteins.

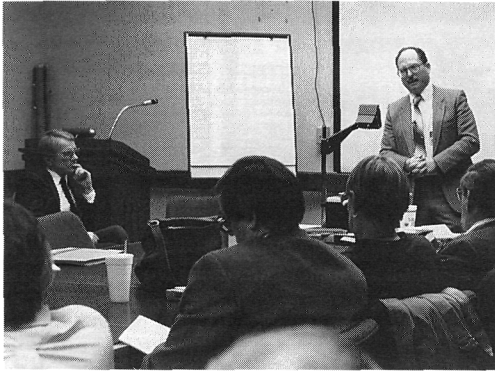
Similarly, exercise apparently does not reduce low density lipoprotein levels for premenopausal women. As a result, physicians and health educators may need to devise special cholesterol-control strategies for these women.

Participants at both sessions agreed that women too often refuse to comply with treatments, due not only to misperceptions of risks but also to competing concerns.

Dr. Margaret A. Chesney, professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco, described

how women turn to cigarettes to control their weight and stress. The notion that cigarettes control weight also convinces teenage girls to start smoking.

These "perceptions and expectations need to be addressed," she said, for prevention and treatment efforts to succeed. □



NIH managers and computer specialists involved in information resources management learn about mainframe computer capacity planning at a recent DCRT-sponsored seminar. Dr. David Rodbard (r), DCRT director, introduces the first session. The instructor, Richard Curtis (seated, l), representing BGS Systems, Inc., addressed both managerial and advanced technical issues.

PEF Auction Update

Start saving now for the annual Patient Emergency Fund (PEF) Auction. Vacation lovers will want to bid on getaways to Williamsburg, Orlando, and Ocean City. Those who prefer to stick closer to home can bid on lunch at La Mische, brunch at the Four Seasons Hotel, or dinner at the Cottonwood Cafe. Other donations thus far include tickets to Blues Alley, theater tickets, sailing on the Chesapeake Bay, an autographed picture of Garth Brooks, and much more.

The auction, sponsored by R&W and the Friends of the Clinical Center, is scheduled for Friday, May 1 in the Visitor Information Center, Bldg. 10, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds go to the PEF, which helps NIH patients in times of financial crisis.

Individuals, offices and departments are encouraged to donate items or services to the auction. Donations are being accepted at any R&W store or the Red Cross desk in Bldg. 10. For more information, contact Kelly McManus in the R&W office, 496-6061. □

Le Club Francais

Si vous parlez bien francais, venez pour une soiree de conversation, degustation et ambiance francaise 1er & 3eme mercredi, de 20h a 22h Federal Bldg., Rm. B1-19. Pour renseignements telephonnez a Le Club Francais a 530-7230. □

Acid-Washed Genes and Other Indignities

Like most of the difficult new scientific ideas that have emerged throughout history, genetics has been interpreted by the culture at large with results that are not often pretty. To hear Dorothy Nelkin describe it, American popular culture has swallowed much of the new information on genetics with all the grace of a boa constrictor downing a dining room chair.

A professor of sociology at New York University and author of several books examining the collision of science with culture, Nelkin addressed "Social Implications: Genetics and Popular Culture," Mar. 19 in Lipsett Amphitheater as part of NCHGR's continuing lecture series on the genome project.

By the time Nelkin got to the first of her many slides, the audience knew the professor was hunting fish in a barrel. Notions of what genes, heredity and DNA mean have been indentured, and in many instances tortured, for the use of everyone from car manufacturers to soap opera librettists. Genes are used to sell Volvos and to explain such personal preferences as iced coffee and gaudy belt buckles.

Pick up a magazine or newspaper and find that "every human quality has a corresponding gene," Nelkin observed, adding, "I've heard it said that every adjective has a gene."

While often jocular and anecdotal, Nelkin's presentation—soon to be a scholarly book—had its serious side and its trenchant observations.

"The metaphor of heredity is pervasive in popular culture—this idea that 'It's all in your genes,'" she explained. Individuals have been reduced to the sum of their nucleotides as human identity has increasingly been defined in genetic terms, a phenomenon she describes as "genetic essentialism." The term "genetic" has come to mean "powerful, pervasive, predictable, hard-wired into the human constitution."

The danger of accepting such a conclusion, she explained, is that individuals suffering from alcoholism or mental illness may believe their conditions are not treatable.

The outcome on human behavior and personality of ideas about genetics interests Nelkin, whose academic focus is on how genetic information is interpreted and used in culture.

She likened genes to computers—"They are an object to think with. The gene has become the screen on which fears and public concerns are expressed."

Dividing her lecture into chapter headings, Nelkin explored five themes: genetics as a source of personhood, DNA as destiny, a growing tendency to seek out genetic characteristics, a fear that the gene pool is declining (she reported seeing a button that read, "You're in the shallow end of the gene pool"),

and the idea that the genome is sacred and inviolable.

This last idea forms the battleground on which both abortion-rights advocates and anti-abortionists marshal ammunition for their arguments. Clearing away smoke from the blasts each side levels at the other, the ever-adaptable gene's contribution to this and many other arguments appears to boil down to: The degree to which personal moral responsibility is freely chosen or biologically determined.

Accused by a listener of giving too little weight to the latter, Nelkin admitted it is absolutely confounding to tease out the effects of nature vs. nurture. She nonetheless cautioned listeners that genetic information is often appropriated to support prevailing beliefs.

Nelkin also offered a number of interesting historical observations—that theories of biological destiny seem to flourish during hard times, that the search for their birth parents by adopted children is no longer seen as taboo but essential, and that, in the 1980's, genealogy book sales doubled. A knack for the epigrammatic, to wit, "DNA is data without dimension, text without context," assures that her next book will gain a wide, and probably edified, readership.—Rich McManus □

Genome Lectures Continue

The Human Genome Lecture Series continues on Apr. 16 with a presentation on "Genome Mapping and the Functional Organization of the Interphase Nucleus," by Dr. Jeanne Lawrence, assistant professor in the department of cell biology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. The talk will be given at 11:30 a.m. in Lipsett Amphitheater, Bldg. 10. For more information, contact Ruth Bennett, (301) 907-3844.

Keys Baseball Tickets On Sale

Check out the fun at Harry Grove Stadium in Frederick, Md., home of the Frederick Keys, the Class A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. R&W has general admission tickets that are good for any Keys 1992 home game; tickets can also be used for any Hagerstown Suns Class AA game played at Hagerstown, Md. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$2 for students ages 5-17, and children under 5 are admitted free. Pick up a Keys schedule today and plan to see some great baseball. You'll like the intimate feel of the stadium and the good food at reasonable prices—all less than an hour away from Bethesda. For more information, contact the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31, 496-4600. □

NATCHER

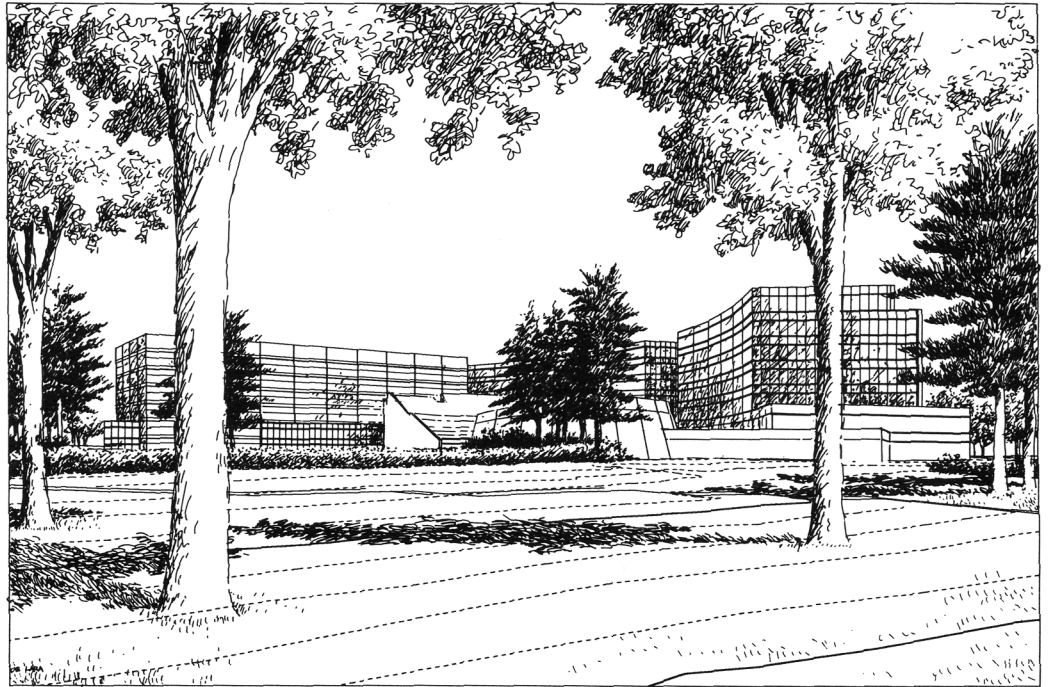
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of requirements" for the structure. An environmental assessment conducted at the time identified two major issues that have required analysis—the impact of increased commuter traffic on Bethesda and the effect of a large new building on Stone House, a mansion whose Greek Revival architecture is of historical interest.

Last August, Healy approved an amendment to the program that added a 1,000-seat auditorium, a requirement that the building present a "gateway" entry to NIH that would be compatible with the adjoining Stone House and National Library of Medicine, and a two-phase plan for construction.

The DES is coordinating design and construction of the \$176 million facility, \$73.3 million of which is already appropriated. The first phase will include office space for about 600 people, a 1,000-seat auditorium and conference center, and a corresponding food service facility.

In phase I, parking for 450 cars will be included in several underground levels with



View from the Lawton Chiles Center (Stone House) looking southeast toward rear of Natcher Bldg.

William H. Natcher Bldg. Schedule

Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement Initiated	November 1991
Building Design Initiated	November 1991
Environmental Assessment Completed	March 1992
Groundbreaking and Begin Phase I Construction	September 1992
Environmental Impact Statement Completed	December 1993
Begin Phase II Construction	May 1994
Phase I Construction Completion	August 1994
Phase II Construction Completion	January 1997

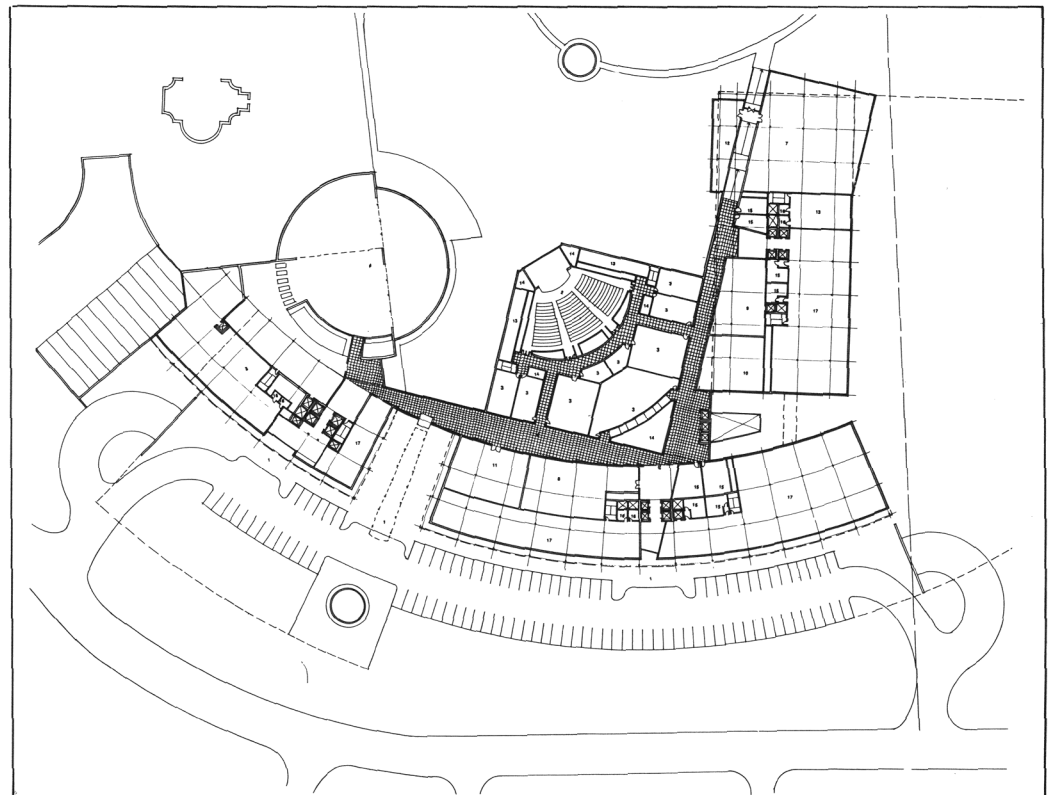
surface parking for an additional 100 cars; the office building will be six or seven stories tall. This phase is scheduled for completion in August 1994.

Although various options are still being considered, phase II should begin in May 1994 including underground parking for 1,350 more cars, office space for some 2,400 people, an expanded cafeteria, a fitness center, credit union, R&W, self-service store, travel agency and employee health unit. All offices with computers will be connected via LAN—local area network. Occupancy is anticipated to begin in January 1997.

"We haven't yet resolved the exterior finishes but the tone will be light in order to complement the NLM across the street," said Clyde Messerly, DES project officer. The rear

of the building, which will face Stone House, will include horizontal bands of glass. Additionally, a skylit atrium will cover a common area connecting the office towers, auditorium and food service. In all, the design maintains the park-like setting between the structure and the Metro station and Stone House to the north.

On Mar. 16, NIH hosted a "scoping session" at which the public was invited to offer comments concerning environmental issues of the phase II plan. Held at Walter Johnson High School in Bethesda, the session acquainted neighbors with the proposed consolidation of NIH staff and the environmental impact statement process. This process, which



Top view of Natcher Bldg. complex including cafeteria (top, l) and auditorium (center, r).

will take 2 years, must be completed prior to construction of the larger phase II portion of the project.

An archaeological impact study on the site was completed in order to proceed with construction. NIH also had to create a traffic mitigation plan that takes into account the impact of additional cars on campus. NIH also had to consult with the Maryland Historical Trust about preserving the integrity of Stone House.

The Stone House, built in 1931 by George Freeland Peter, is considered a prime example of estate architecture, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. NIH acquired the home in 1949; it was renamed for Sen. Lawton Chiles (now governor of Florida) last year. "We will use some stone on the building's terrace to reflect the stone used in the Lawton Chiles Center," reports Jorge Urrutia, DES director. "We will also do some landscaping to complement the mansion."

At least half of the occupants of the Natcher Bldg. will be extramural staff. The 600 tenants who will occupy the phase I building come from the Westwood Bldg. Occupancy for the second phase has not yet been determined. Bidding for phase I construction on the building is planned for May, following consideration of an environmental assessment that is nearing completion. □

ACC Honors Healy

NIH director Dr. Bernadine Healy will be one of six specialists in cardiovascular medicine honored at the American College of Cardiology's 41st Annual Scientific Session held Apr. 12-16 in Dallas.

A former member of ACC's governing board, Healy will receive the Distinguished Service Award, which is presented to a physician, scientist or lay person who, by individual effort, has made profound contributions to medicine and/or delivery of health care. Healy will be honored "because of her outstanding accomplishments which include her dedication to biomedical research in general, and cardiology in particular."

The Distinguished Service Award was established in 1967 and has been awarded to 20 individuals, among them former President Lyndon Johnson, former NIH director Dr. Donald Fredrickson, and, in 1990, DRG director Dr. Jerome Green.

The ACC has 19,300 members and is dedicated to fostering optimal cardiovascular care and disease prevention. □

Associate Director Norman Mansfield Retires

Norman Mansfield retired as NIH associate director for research services last month after more than 33 years in government service. He had been in the position for 4 years.

In 1988 when Mansfield accepted the associate directorship, the *NIH Record* described his new challenge this way: "There is only one employee at NIH for whom it would be understandable to see in a hardhat on Monday, a fireman's helmet on Tuesday, a printer's visor on Wednesday and a housekeeper's uniform on Thursday."

"Such regalia would still fail to exhaust the symbols of the various professions overseen by Norm Mansfield..."

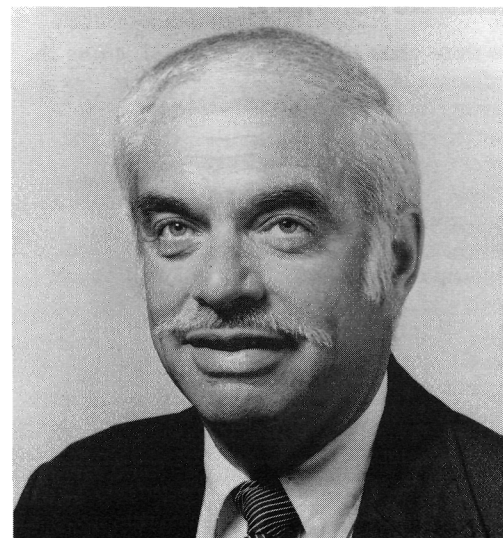
As associate director, he was responsible for providing support services such as engineering, safety, security, space and facility management and printing and mail for NIH's 320-acre Bethesda campus and nearby leased facilities.

Longtime colleague John Mahoney, NIH associate director for administration, said he often looked to Mansfield as "a model of professionalism and dignity and a source of sound analysis and good advice."

Mansfield came to NIH in 1975 as director of the Division of Financial Management, a position he held until he was promoted to his NIH associate directorship in 1988. In 1985 and 1991, Mansfield was honored with a Meritorious Executive Rank Award.

Janet Pritts, Mansfield's special assistant in NIH's Office of Research Services, said he was known by his employees and colleagues as a supervisor very interested in the recognition and advancement of good employees.

Frequently, she recalled, grateful employees he had promoted would say, "Thank you for giving me this job." But Mansfield would



Norman Mansfield

shake his head and correct them, "I didn't give it to you, you earned it." He gave many opportunities to many people over the years that I have known him," said Pritts, who worked closely with him for more than 8 years. "He always put the best interest of NIH first and foremost. We really miss working with him."

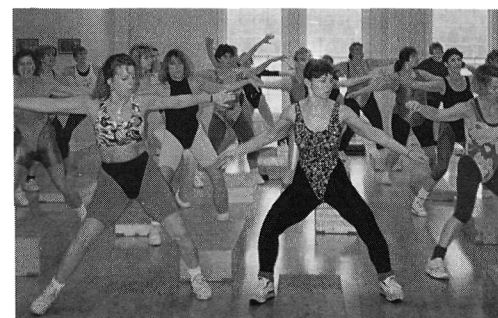
Before coming to NIH, Mansfield worked as a senior program analyst in the National Science Foundation's office of planning and resources management. From 1964 to 1973, he served in various administrative positions at the Office of Economic Opportunity. From 1973 to 1975, Mansfield was a senior program analyst in the National Science Foundation's Office of Planning and Resources Management. □

Scala Supports Heart Fundraiser Through Dance, Exercise

Michelle Scala, a contract specialist in OD's Division of Procurement Acquisition Branch, did her part recently in helping the American Heart Association raise money for their research and education. She did this by participating in a "Dance for Heart" 2-hour dance/exercise program sponsored by the Oakwood Fitness Center in Kilmarnock, Va., where she lives.

The dance event combined the efforts of many local exercise enthusiasts as part of a nationwide endeavor to reduce death and disability from heart disease and stroke. Area volunteers solicited sponsors to pledge contributions for every minute they danced or exercised during the 2-hour event. Scala won the contest for the most donations solicited with a total of \$583. The total amount of

money raised from the event was more than \$1,800.



Michelle Scala (c) recently participated in a "Dance for Heart" exercise program in which she solicited the most donations, totaling \$583.

KANDEL

(Continued from Page 1)

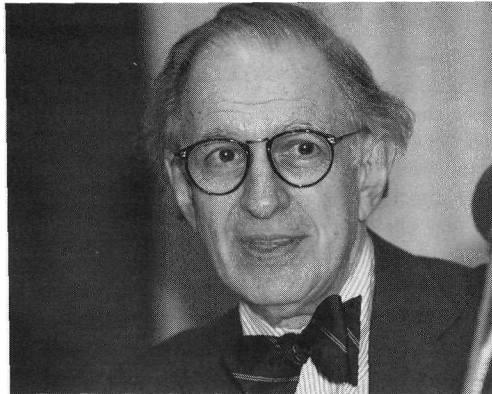
to those years at the NIH," he said, citing the influence of NIH's "intellectual giants" on his career. Although he is not a neurosurgeon or miracle worker, Kandel promised to physically reorganize the brain tissues of those who filled Masur Auditorium for his presentation. "If you remember even part of what I'm telling you, you will walk out of this lecture with slightly different heads than you walked in with—free of charge," said Kandel, who based this assertion on the discovery that the brain makes new neural connections when things are memorized.

Philosophers and scientists have long puzzled over how memories are formed. "We are who we are in good part based on what we learn and what we remember," observed Kandel. The philosopher William James, brother of novelist Henry James, was the first to realize that there are two types of memory: long-term and short-term. Kandel and others have found that in many ways the two are similar and in other ways they are very different.

Kandel has discovered that in order for short-term memories to form in *Aplysia*, certain molecules in the nerve cells must be chemically changed in a process called "phosphorylation." These changed molecules then cause calcium to flood the cells, which releases packets of the chemicals that allow cells to communicate with one another. "Calcium is very important in short-term memory," Kandel said. He noted that other scientists have bred strains of fruit flies that have defects in the system that passes calcium in and out of cells. These strains are named after vegetables (potato and rutabaga are two examples) because they lack the ability to learn.

Kandel observed that the mechanisms of long-term memory are quite similar to those of short-term memory—with two important differences. Both long-term and short-term memory involve changes in existing proteins and in the structure of the synapse (the junction between nerve cells). In order for memories to be stored for long periods, however, cells must create new kinds of protein from the genetic blueprints encoded in the DNA. Kandel also studied how the formation of long-term memories involves nerve growth. Nerve cells that have attached themselves to one spot will pull up their stakes, grow out in another direction, and reattach. Hence Kandel's claim that remembering his talk would mean a restructuring of the brain.

Kandel is confident that these memory mechanisms are so basic that they are applicable to all animals, including humans. They may also have important implications for human disease; Kandel spent the final few minutes of his talk discussing how some of



Dr. Eric Kandel

these mechanisms may be involved in cancer formation. For instance, the mechanisms that cause nerve cells to grow during long-term memory formation might malfunction and provoke unregulated growth in cells.

Many friends, said Kandel, wonder why he passed up the potential for a lucrative Park Avenue medical practice in order to spend his life with snails. The doctor, however, seems to find far more reward in answers to questions like "How do we become what we are?" and "How do we think?" □

Bus Trips to O's Games Set

Treat yourself to an evening of major league baseball without major league hassles—leave the driving to R&W. R&W will escort you from NIH to the new home of Baltimore's baseball team, Oriole Park at Camden Yards. There are four trips scheduled for the season, all Friday evening games departing from Bldg. 31C at 5:30 p.m.—May 22 vs. California, June 19 vs. New York, July 10 vs. Minnesota, and Aug. 21 vs. Oakland. Cost is \$22.50 per person and includes round trip motorcoach transportation and a ticket to the game. For reservations or more information, contact the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31, 496-4600. □

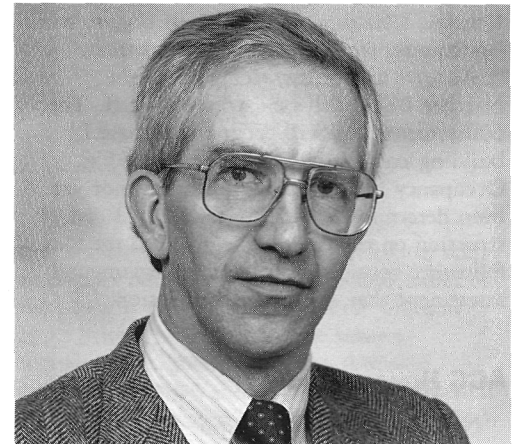
Bike Club To Meet

The NIH Commuter Bike Club will hold its annual "spring fling" on Wednesday, Apr. 15 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at FAES House. Wine and cheese as well as other refreshments will be provided. There will be a short program on topics of current interest to cyclists. All are welcome. The cost is \$1 for members, \$2 for nonmembers. Memberships are available at the door. For more information, call Jay Miller, 496-6941. □

NIEHS Biologist Earns Johnson & Johnson Grant

Dr. Anton M. Jetten, an NIEHS biologist, has been awarded a 3-year \$195,000 grant by Johnson and Johnson to continue his research on the regulation of differentiation in lung and skin in relation to various disease processes including cancer. The award, along with a plaque, was presented during the company's Annual Focused Giving Scientific Symposium in New Brunswick, N.J.

Jetten, head of the cell biology section in NIEHS' Laboratory of Pulmonary Pathobiology, will use the grant to further his investigations on the regulation of gene expression during squamous cell differentiation. His work involves nuclear retinoic acid receptors and their role in the development of



Dr. Anton M. Jetten

lung and skin disease and possible therapeutic applications of retinoids. The Johnson and Johnson program, established in 1980, awards grants to scientists engaged in cutting-edge research projects.

Jetten earned his Ph.D. in 1973 at the department of biochemistry, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands. That same year he became a research associate in the department of biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and held research positions at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology and at NCI before joining NIEHS in 1982.

An internationally recognized speaker on epithelial and lung cell differentiation, receptor mechanisms and lung disease etiology, Jetten has published more than 100 scientific papers and is a member of the American Society for Cell Biology and the American Association for Cancer Research. □

Reweaving the 'Quilt'

Women's History Month Observed at NIH, Role Models Portrayed

By Carla Garnett

The 1 month a year devoted nationwide to acknowledging the contributions of women in history should be more than just a recitation of famous names, said attorney Dorothy Nelms, the keynote speaker for "Women's History: A Patchwork of Many Lives," NIH's 1992 women's history observance.

Why should we celebrate women's history?, Nelms said she is often asked. "Because it is a time for an evaluation of ourselves, for ourselves," she replied. Nelms said when she was growing up she remembers hearing or reading about just three women history-makers—"Clara 'the Red Cross' Barton, Florence 'the nurse' Nightingale and Betsy 'the flag' Ross." Women role models were few and far between, she said. As a result, women of Nelms' generation were seldom properly counseled about higher education opportunities and career goals.



Carol Romano, president of NIH's advisory committee for women, presided at NIH's 1992 women's history month observance, "Women's History: A Patchwork of Many Lives," cosponsored by the committee and NIH's Office of Equal Opportunity.

Introduced by deputy director of NIH's Office for Research on Women's Health Dr. Judith LaRosa, Nelms was described as a woman who "doesn't take no for an answer." An attorney specializing in criminal and family law, Nelms embarked on what could be called her third and fourth careers in law and public speaking in 1978, after careers in administration and child rearing. She said as a high school student who excelled in mathematics and science she was urged toward one of only two careers—teaching or nursing. It was Nelms' father who rejected both those suggestions and insisted, "You're going to be a doctor."



Attorney Dorothy Nelms (l), keynote speaker at NIH's women's history observance, accepts a framed program poster from Lucretia Coffey, NIH Federal Women's Program manager. In her speech, Nelms highlighted the achievements of eight women including early environmentalist Rachel Carson, anthropologist Margaret Mead, and civil rights activist Rosa Parks, whom she said inspired her.

Photos: Ernie Branson

Although she did not pursue medicine as a career, Nelms said it was important that her father thought her capable of achieving in what was a male-dominated field. In the same way, she said, women's history month makes people acknowledge the wide range of accomplishments by women in areas not traditionally pursued by females. Young



Janie Taylor, a Department of Navy retiree, recreated Sojourner Truth's historic women's rights speech, "Ain't I A Woman," at NIH's recent women's history month program.



The life and times of suffragette/early activist Elizabeth Cady Stanton were explored by Dorothy Spinks, past president of Federally Employed Women, Inc.

women then begin to see broader horizons for themselves, she noted.

"We must recognize individual courage and individual fortitude," Nelms concluded. "We need to recognize that we have the power and we can use it."

The program, cosponsored by NIH's Office of Equal Opportunity and the NIH advisory committee for women, also included dramatic performances of two historic women, civil rights activist and former slave Sojourner Truth and women's suffrage advocate Elizabeth Cady Stanton. □

Class on Mac Software

Software for the Macintosh continues to develop at a rapid rate, and its already wide range of applications programs continues to expand. Areas of potential interest to NIH researchers include extremely user-friendly systems for advanced, interactive statistical analysis, publication-quality graphics, 2D and 3D charting and curve fitting, and powerful numerical computational platforms with extensive special-function libraries, graphics, and user-created notebooks and scripts.

On Wednesday, Apr. 1, a 1-day lecture and demonstration course will be offered by DCRT to profile some of the latest developments in these areas. The course, Macintosh Software for the Scientist, will begin with a useful, broad introduction to Mac software. It will continue with lecture/demonstrations about JMP (Version 2.0) from SAS Institute and DeltaGraph Pro, and will conclude with HiQ, a new entrant in the field of advanced computations and graphics, which also has a truly Mac-like, user-friendly interface.

"This course is offered twice a year to keep NIH researchers apprised of the latest fast-breaking developments in scientific software for the Macintosh. It has always been very well attended," notes course coordinator and moderator Dr. James Malley.

Advanced registration is recommended, as class space is limited; call the DCRT Training Unit, 496-2339. All lecturers will be available throughout the day for hands-on demos and individual questions. □

NHLBI Mourns Death of Rudolph Shaw

Rudolph Valentino Shaw, a purchasing agent in NHLBI's Administrative Services Branch (ASB), died Mar. 7 of cancer.

He was only 34 years old, but he affected many lives and earned the respect and friendship of his coworkers.

"Rudy Shaw was a wonderful person," said NHLBI director Dr. Claude Lenfant. "He was a fine employee, not just because of his industry and his eagerness, but also because of his personality. He made your day brighter."

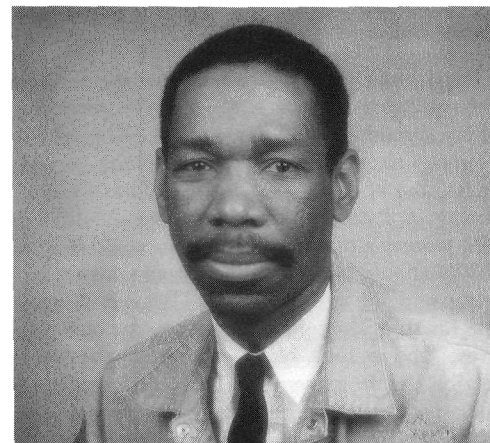
Saddened coworkers echoed that sentiment. "We will miss Rudy's gleaming smile," said Gretchen Jones, chief of ASB. "He was one of the kindest and most helpful persons I've ever met."

"We're going to miss Rudy terribly," agreed Ron Farrar, an ASB administrative officer. "We're trying to come to terms with his death. But it's tough. It's a big loss."

A Washington native and avid Redskins fan, Shaw was one of six brothers and graduated from McKinley High School in 1975.

He was only a teenager when in 1974 he began working as a clerk for the National Library of Medicine. Three years later, he transferred to the Food and Drug Administration, returning to NLM not long after and entering the NIH Upward Mobility Program, which enabled him to work while attending the University of the District of Columbia.

In 1986, he left government for the private



Rudolph Shaw

sector, but came back in June 1989 to take a job with NHLBI, handling all procurement for several institute offices, including the director's.

Through the years, Shaw won numerous federal awards, including two in 1976, an honorable mention for helping to design the NLM logo and a group performance award; a 1990 Special Act or Service cash award; and the April 1991 NHLBI Employee of the Month.

"Rudy brought joy to everyone who knew him," said Jones. "He will not be forgotten."

Research Festival 1992 Announces Schedule; Application Deadline Is May 15

The 1992 NIH Research Festival will be held Monday, Sept. 21 and Tuesday, Sept. 22. The Alumni Symposium is titled "Frontiers in Immunology and Infectious Diseases." In addition, there will be three other symposia: "The Extracellular Matrix in Development and Pathology," "Structural Biology," and "Transgenic Animals as Disease Models."

More than 30 workshops are being organized as well. This year's poster sessions will be coordinated to correspond to the various related workshops.

The research festival committee is chaired this year by Dr. Edward Korn, NHLBI scientific director. The committee invites submission of poster topics by all NIH, ADAMHA, and FDA staff from the Bethesda campus.

The application form for poster sessions is being distributed desk-to-desk. The final deadline for the applications will be Friday, May 15. For more information about poster

session registration, call Gregory Roa, Visitor Information Center, 496-1776.

The Technical Sales Association (TSA) will provide refreshments for each poster session on Monday and Tuesday. There will be no picnic this year. Thursday, Sept. 24, and Friday, Sept. 25 have been reserved for the TSA Scientific Equipment Show in the Research Festival tents; the tents will be erected once again on parking lot 10D. □

Journal Issues Needed

Neuroscientists in Moscow need used or new scientific journals (including *Science*, *Nature*, *Brain Research*, *Psychophysiology*, etc.). Send copies to Librarian Svetlana Zbar, Institute of Higher Nervous Activity and Neurophysiology, Academy Sciences of Russia, 5a Butlerov St., Moscow, Russia 117865. For more information call Dr. Alexander Gorbach, 402-0100. □

Golf League Plans Season

The NIH R&W 9-Hole Golf League is preparing for its 1992 season. Play is once a week after work at the Falls Road Golf Course. This league accommodates all levels of golfers through competitive and noncompetitive play. To play competitively, three 9-hole scores must be submitted in order to determine a handicap. The season begins in early May and ends Labor Day. For more information, contact Anne Marie Gillen, 402-1661. Registration closes on Apr. 15. □

Blacks with Diabetes Sought

Researchers at NIDDK are conducting a study on whether the kidney disease of diabetes (diabetic nephropathy) runs in Black American families. Black Americans have high rates of both diabetes and kidney disease, and researchers seek to understand why. Volunteers will be paid to fill out a questionnaire, give their medical history, and undergo a physical exam and some laboratory tests. This will involve three clinic visits. Contact Dr. Gail Moreschi or Dr. Karen Schmidt, 496-8269, for more information. □



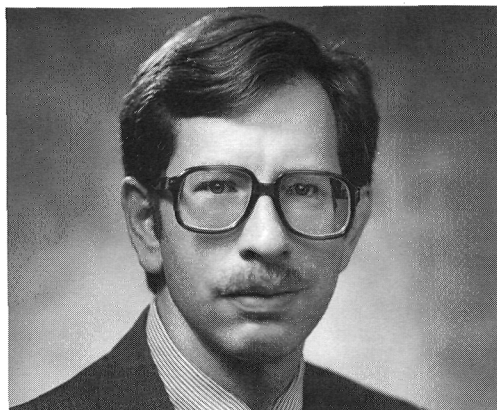
TRAINING TIPS

The NIH Training Center of the Division of Personnel Management offers the following hands-on IBM and Macintosh computer training classes:

Course Titles Starting Dates

Personal Computing Courses 496-6211

Welcome to Macintosh	4/20, 5/5, 5/18
Intro to WordPerfect 2.0 (Mac)	5/4
Advanced WordPerfect 2.0	5/14
Transition to WordPerfect 2.0	(upon request)
Advanced Microsoft Word	4/21
Excel Level 1	5/12
Excel Level 2	4/22
Excel Level 3	5/21
Filemaker PRO	5/7
FoxBASE-Level 1 (Mac)	(upon request)
FoxBASE-Level 2 (Mac)	(upon request)
Aldus Persuasion	5/8
HyperCard	5/11
3Com PC Network-Level 1	4/7, 5/13
3Com PC Network-Level 2	5/19
Intro to Personal Computing for New Users	4/23, 5/27
Disaster Recovery and Data Retrieval for the PC	4/15
Introduction to DOS	4/16, 5/1
Introduction to Windows 3.0	4/23, 5/11
Introduction to WordPerfect 5.1	4/22, 5/5
WordPerfect 5.1 — Advanced Topics	5/13
Printing With WP 5.1 and Laser Printers	5/5
Intro to Harvard Graphics, Rel. 3.0	4/29
Intermed. Harvard Graphics, Rel. 3.0	5/20
Intro to Harvard Graphics, Rel. 2.3	4/13, 5/14
Intermed. Harvard Graphics, Rel. 2.3	5/4
Intro to Paradox	4/13
Intermed. Paradox	4/14
Advanced Paradox	4/2, 5/21
Introduction to dBASE III+	4/27
Intermediate dBASE III+	5/12
Intro to Lotus 1-2-3, Rel. 2.2	5/4
Lotus 1-2-3, Rel. 2.2 — Adv. Tops.	5/27
Intro to Symphony	4/27
IMPACT System for Personnel Staff	4/22, 5/7
IMPACT System for MSCs	5/18
IMPACT System for Administrative Staff	4/16
IMPACT System for Professional Staff	4/16
Introduction to CRISP	4/24, 5/12
CRISP Thesaurus	4/24



Dr. William H. Theodore, chief of the NINDS Clinical Epilepsy Branch, recently received the American Epilepsy Society's \$50,000 Research Recognition Award at the society's annual meeting in Philadelphia. He was cited for developing "one of the pioneering laboratories for the study of cerebral blood flow and metabolism using positron emission tomography in patients with epilepsy." One of the first investigators to demonstrate changes in metabolic activity in patients with partial seizures, Theodore has also shown the effects of antiepileptic drugs on cognitive function, glucose metabolism, and blood flow using PET.

Circus Comes to Town

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus will be in town Apr. 15-27 at the D.C. Armory for 24 shows. R&W members can purchase tickets for all performances, some at discount prices. Tickets for shows held Apr. 16-22 must be ordered by Apr. 15, and will be available at the R&W Activities Desk in Bldg. 31 on the afternoon of Apr. 16. Tickets for the Apr. 23-27 performances must be ordered by Apr. 22 and will be ready on the afternoon of Apr. 23 at the activities desk. □

Talks Address Space Science

On Apr. 23, the arthritis and musculo-skeletal diseases interagency coordinating committee will meet in Bldg. 31, Conf. Rm. 4 for two presentations: "Influence of Long Duration and Simulated Space Flight on Human Bone and Connective Tissue," by Dr. Victor Schneider, director, Bone and Mineral Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, and "The Musculoskeletal Response of the Rat to Non-weight Bearing Conditions and Space Flight," by Dr. Stephen B. Doty, senior research scientist and director, Electromicroscopy Laboratory, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York.

For more information, call Sharon Nouzari-Louis, 496-0801. □

NIH's Are Thanked

Thanks go out to the many NIH'ers who responded to a notice in the Mar. 3 issue of the *Record* requesting that business cards be sent to an ill child who wanted to make the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Judy Ireland of NHLBI reports that the boy, Craig Sherwood, accomplished his goal of gathering the world's largest collection. "Sincere thanks go out to the multitude of individuals who responded," Ireland said. □

DCRT Computer Training Classes

Classes	Dates
Macintosh Software for the Scientist	4/1
NUnet, LAN, and Mainframe Mail Connectivity	4/2
Network Services	4/3
C Language Data Structures	4/6-8, 14-15
Introduction to COMPRO Utilities	4/6, 8
Unix Commands	4/7
SAS Fundamentals II for Programmers	4/8-10
Macintosh Dial-Up and Network Connectivity	4/9
Windows Optimization	4/10
Beyond Basic WYLBUR	4/13-17
Andrew File System	4/13
Preparing Scientific Posters on the Macintosh	4/14
Networks for the Scientific Community	4/14
Macintosh Networking with TCP/IP	4/15
Designing Tables and Managing a DB2 Database	4/20, 22, 24
Convex Questions and Answers	4/21
Kermit Scripts	4/21
Creating and Using Simple WYLBUR Command Procedures	4/22, 23
PC Viruses	4/22
Macintosh Viruses	4/22
EGAD — Where will it lead us?	4/24
Introduction to WYLBUR	4/27, 29
Technology for Connecting Networks at NIH — NUnet	4/28
Choosing a Windows Word Processor	4/28
Bibliographic Manager Programs for the Macintosh	4/28
Introduction to PC Mainframe Communication with ProComm Plus	4/30

Classes are offered by the Computer Center Training Unit, DCRT, without charge. Call 496-2339 for more information. □



A group of health and education professionals from the Persian Gulf region recently visited NIH under the auspices of the Citizen Exchange Initiative of the U.S. Information Agency. One stop was at the Stone House, where they were greeted by F. Gray Handley of the Fogarty International Center and learned about several institutes from Drs. James Snow (l), NIDCD director; Joseph S. Drage, NINDS; and James F. Kavanagh (r), NICHD.

Task Force on Aging Research Will Develop 'Strategic Plan'

The task force on aging research, charged by Congress to recommend research priorities to the DHHS secretary, held its first session recently. The group includes NIH institute directors, experts from agencies such as the Social Security Administration, the Health Care Financing Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, members of Congress, and the public.

Dr. James O. Mason, HHS assistant secretary for health, kicked off the task force effort by noting that such a broad-based group is especially qualified to discuss the range of issues raised by the "graying" of the population. He emphasized the need for a "strategic plan" for the study of aging as the proportion of the older population increases dramatically in the United States and worldwide.

"Every baby born today has almost a generation longer to live than a baby born in 1900," Mason pointed out. Research on the aging process and the diseases associated with growing older "holds the promise of unraveling how, as those years are prolonged, we can turn them into quality, productive years."

Mason also noted that, by improving health and vitality in late life, the outlook for the nation's retirement and health care financing systems can be improved. Dr. Gene D. Cohen, NIA acting director and task force chairman, added that aging research offers "the greatest chance for us to promote inde-



Dr. James O. Mason (second from r), HHS assistant secretary for health, kicks off the first meeting of the task force on aging research with (from l) Dr. Frank Whittington, senior research policy advisor to the task force; Dr. Gene D. Cohen, NIA acting director and task force chairman; and Dr. Ronald Abeles, executive secretary.

pendence in later life and to reduce risk factors leading to the need for costly long-term care."

The task force hopes to build on the work of a number of federal commissions and panels over the years that have looked at aging or diseases related to growing older. The group's first annual report will evaluate the work of those panels and consolidate their most important recommendations into one comprehensive document. A second report will be issued suggesting additional research needs and opportunities. Together, these reports will rec-

ommend particular research areas that should be supported, suggest which areas should be given priority, and indicate the amount of funds needed to carry out the recommended research.

The task force is comprised of 35 members, including the directors of nearly all the institutes and centers at NIH. Chartered for 2 years, the group will deliver annual reports to the HHS secretary, who will then offer recommendations to Congress.—Vicki Cahan □

NCI-Frederick Student Intern Program Lauded

The NCI Frederick Cancer Research and Development Center's Student Intern Program (SIP) recently received an honorable mention in the Bowie State University Foundation, Inc., Extra Mile Awards Program.

The program was among six chosen for recognition by a statewide panel consisting of educators, business persons and representatives of the Office of the Governor.

The award was presented to NCI for working in cooperation with the Frederick County Public Schools in establishing a unique program to provide high school students an opportunity to receive hands-on laboratory training and learn the basic methods of cancer research theory. The SIP was also nominated for a partnership award at the National Association of Partners in Education meeting held last fall.

SIP was established in 1989. The number of students has grown from six in 1989-90 to 13 in 1991-92. The most outstanding effects so far of the program have been the individual accomplishments of the student interns who have had articles published, consistently won top awards at local and county science fairs, international science and engineering fairs, and the Westinghouse scholarship competitions.

NCI sponsors participating in the program are: Drs. Berton Zbar, Laboratory of Immunobiology, Thomas Schneider and Andreas Konopka, Laboratory of Mathematical Biology, Division of Cancer Biology, Diagnosis and Centers; Dr. Joseph Saavedra, Laboratory of Comparative Carcinogenesis, Drs. David Derse and Nancy Colburn, Laboratory of Viral Carcinogenesis, Dr. Arun Seth, Laboratory of Molecular Oncology, Division of Cancer Etiology; Drs. John Ortaldo, Steven Giardina, Howard Young, Joyce Frey-Vasconcells, Laboratory of Experimental Immunology, Drs. Scott Durum and David Kelvin, Laboratory of Molecular Immunoregulation, as well as Drs. Dan Longo and Doug Ferris, of the Biological Response Modifiers Program, Division of Cancer Treatment. Schneider and Young, both sponsors since the inception of the SIP, made a program presentation at the recent Regional Education Service Agency of Appalachian Maryland meeting on "Planning for our Scientific Future." □

Extramural Grantsmanship Workshop

A workshop on extramural programs and grant support, designed to help postdoctoral fellows understand the research grant process, will be held on Wednesday, May 27, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Lister Hill Auditorium, Bldg. 38A.

The workshop, sponsored by NIGMS, is intended for intramural postdoctoral fellows, staff fellows, clinical associates, and research associates who will be leaving NIH during the next year. Others will be considered for participation as space allows.

The program will cover the types of federal and nonfederal support available to new investigators, the NIH review process, tips on preparing a grant application, and the people to contact with problems or questions.

Small group discussions designed to answer individual questions will be led by experienced staff people from DRG and several other NIH components.

Application forms are available from intramural laboratory and branch chiefs, and must be returned by Apr. 27 to: Extramural Workshop, Westwood Bldg., Rm. 919. To request an application, contact Kathy Scott, 496-7137. □